

There is a better way. Republicans have offered real solutions that lower the cost of health care and improve access while resulting in zero job loss, zero Medicare cuts, and zero tax increases. Let me say that one more time. Zero job loss, zero Medicare cuts, and zero tax increases.

Mr. Speaker, Americans deserve an honest debate and an up-or-down vote on this bill. That's why I have cosponsored legislation to do just that, but Democrats have continued to stand in the way of true and real reform. A government takeover of health care is wrong for South Carolina, it is wrong for this Nation, and, Mr. Speaker, it is wrong for freedom. I hope and I pray, Mr. Speaker, that come Sunday my colleagues and I will beat this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote "no."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Ms. FALLIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to visit with Oklahomans all across our State and to talk about what really concerns them; and what I hear from my Oklahomans is they are concerned about their families, and they are concerned about their Nation, and they are concerned about their jobs and their children's future and how their children's future will even look, especially with the debates we are having here in Washington, D.C. They are concerned about their jobs and the economy and making rent payments, house payments, car payments, and paying for prescription drugs. They are concerned about their children going to college and about their education.

I have also had an opportunity to speak to our Oklahoma businesses and ask them, What do you think about what we are doing here in Washington? And they tell me time and time again that they are concerned about the big government intrusion into business, and they want government to stay out of their way and let them create jobs and let them invest and create opportunities and be entrepreneurs; yet what they hear from Washington is we are talking about more rules and regulations and more government takeover of industries and more taxes and higher taxes and the government expansion of programs like this health care bill. They are sitting on the sidelines and they are not creating those jobs and opportunities for my Oklahoma families so they can feel stable and secure in their lives.

Mr. Speaker, this health care bill that we are debating this weekend will change the course of our Nation. It is going to be a massive expansion of the Federal Government, a massive expansion, taking over our freedoms, our ability to make our own decisions about our health care. It is a massive expansion into one-sixth of our Nation's economy in the health care industry. I want my Oklahomans to know that I will stand firmly against voting for the Pelosi-Obama health care government takeover that we are going to be voting on this weekend, and I will not vote for it.

This vote will be one of the most far-reaching, significant pieces of major social policy legislation in our lifetime and will definitely affect the future of all of our children. It will change the course of future generations of our children. Already our Nation is facing huge deficits and large amounts of debt, out-of-control spending by Congress, and that is hurting our economy and killing jobs and even threatening the stability of our Nation and our businesses and our families.

As we now know, many States are facing also hard times from budget deficits, and they are having to cut services and making really tough, painful spending decisions about the delivery of services to their citizens. States are also having a hard time paying for growing Medicaid costs. And now this health care bill, if it passes, will pass on down more unfunded Medicaid costs upon our States and create even bigger, nanny state entitlement programs, all at a time when Medicaid reimbursements are so low that doctors are dropping both Medicaid and having a hard time—it is hard to even find doctors who will see Medicaid or Medicare patients, especially in our rural areas. In fact, I read an article this week that said some pharmacies are not accepting new Medicaid patients because of the low reimbursement rate.

So the question is: Will our children's future and the American citizen's future be better if we pass this health care bill? And the question will be: Will our citizens be able to choose their own doctor or will their doctor be deciding whether to choose them, or will there even be a doctor for them to see?

The U.S. already has a shortage of doctors. We just heard the previous speaker talk about how 46 percent of the primary care physicians say they may drop out of the medical profession if this bill passes. From my State of Oklahoma, it is estimated that this legislation will impose over \$500 million of unfunded Medicaid expansion mandates on our State.

Mr. Speaker, I ask our colleagues to reject this bill. Let's work on creating jobs and opportunities. Let's work on a lasting solution for health care reform.

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I had the great privilege of practicing medicine for 20 years in Louisiana. I was a heart surgeon. I did open heart surgery, critical lung surgery, and I took care of many patients during very difficult times in their lives. And I got to see the wonderful innovation in technology that we were able to use to save so many lives during that time.

As we face a Sunday vote, here we are Friday night, and I have to say that I am deeply saddened because I really fear what is going to happen to health care in the United States if this bill passes. I have heard from many Americans across the country, given my status as a physician in Congress, many, many Americans from all over the country have contacted me and have basically rejected this bill. They are concerned. They are concerned because they will see their premiums rise. Let me explain.

The Senate Democrat bill will increase health insurance premiums for families by up to 13 percent by 2016. What does this mean? For an individual with the lowest cost basic plan, it would cost \$300 more in 2016 than if Congress did nothing at all. How about for a family? Families are struggling right now. Well, for a family who got the lowest cost basic plan, it would cost \$2,100 more in 2016 than if Congress did nothing at all. Premiums are going to rise.

We don't need an expensive bill to start bringing health care premiums down. All it would take is competition and choice, things that Republicans have promoted. We have written bills that would expand health savings accounts. We would allow folks to buy insurance across State lines, create transparency, and allow small businesses to pool together to get greater purchasing power, just like unions and large corporations do.

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That wouldn't cost trillions of dollars to do. Let's just do this. It's easy.

What is going to happen with this plan? Well, it raids the Medicare program by a half a trillion dollars and uses that money to create a whole new entitlement, just like it basically raises taxes by over a half a trillion dollars to create this new entitlement program. What happens with these taxes? These are taxes on businesses and families. These are taxes on innovation in health care. And so the United States may end up losing its innovative edge if we allow this to go forward.

If you look at what's happened over the past 50 years in health care, folks, doctors, nurses have come from all over the world to train in the United States because of our advanced education in health care and in medicine and our advanced technology. Patients come from all over the world because of this great innovation, this great

ability to save lives. And if we tax this, well, we will lose that competitive edge. There is no question about it.

So what happens with this big massive entitlement that is going to be expanded? Well, \$434 billion will be used to expand Medicaid coverage. Now, as a physician I know that Medicaid is a deeply flawed program. There are serious problems with this. First of all, it is breaking States' budgets. Secondly, it is a strain on the Federal budget. But what does this really mean for families? Well, families who have Medicaid right now are having a very difficult time getting access to a doctor because the Medicaid reimbursements don't even come close in many instances to meeting the costs. So doctors are not seeing these patients until late in their conditions. They are having to go to the emergency room, when care is much more expensive, they are sicker. And it is just the wrong way to do this. It is not fair for these individuals, these families who are having to do this.

So what does this bill do? It expands Medicaid. Well, I have a problem with this. I think there is a better way to do it. We can expand coverage, meaningful coverage, by increasing competition, as I mentioned earlier, so that folks afford health care insurance. The last thing we want to do is drive up the cost of health insurance. And that is what this bill does.

The other thing this bill does is it increases taxes across the board. I mentioned new taxes on innovation, on pharmaceuticals, on devices that surgeons use in the hospital. You know, your knee replacement, your hip replacement. This is going to hurt innovation, as I mentioned. But there are also new taxes across the board on businesses. We are going to see new Medicare taxes, \$210 billion in new Medicare taxes, new taxes on health care benefits, new taxes on employers, and an individual mandate, an individual mandate that is going to have the IRS in everybody's business.

Mr. Speaker, we have a duty to do health care reform, but we have an obligation to get this right.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. ROGERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ROGERS of Michigan addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HEALTH CARE REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, America is at a pivotal point in its history. We hear a lot of claims on both sides that are contradicting. And I want to just talk for a few minutes

about some of those claims and just give you some simple truths. We heard all day long today that doctors support this government takeover of the health care plan. I brought one of several charts that we are putting together in my office. Nearly 500,000 doctors, represented by a number of organizations, including the Medical Association of Georgia, my own medical society, are against this bill.

In fact, this chart, small letters, this is just the beginning of the A's. The simple truth is that doctors don't support this bill, if they are practicing physicians, overwhelmingly.

Now, I am a family practice doctor. My own society, the American Academy of Family Physicians, has supported the bill. They have cut a sweetheart deal where the reimbursement rate for primary care docs, family doctors like me, will be upped a little bit. But what they haven't looked at is all the ramifications of this, which are going to be disastrous for their own practices.

The AMA cut a sweetheart deal. It is my understanding that they wanted tort reform, an SGR fix, and 100 percent coverage. They haven't done very well with that because none of those three are going to be accomplished in the Senate bill that we will be voting on this weekend.

We have heard claims about CBO says it is going to reduce the deficit. Well, the simple truth is they have used zombie economics to get these numbers. Because one would have to be walking around in a dead person to believe the economic parameters that were forced upon the CBO. A good example is the CBO was forced to score, or tell us how much it would cost when we pay out only 6 years' worth of benefits but we have 10 years' worth of increased taxes.

The Internal Revenue Service is going to be markedly increased in size and given more authority to snoop into our personal lives. In fact, they are going to hire 16,000 new agents to look at our bank accounts, look at our health records, look at whether we have acceptable health insurance as is deemed by a board here in Washington, D.C.

We hear our colleagues on the Democratic side, the far left, talk about people cannot get health insurance or health care. Well, they use health care and health insurance as being synonymous. I have treated many patients during my almost four decades of practicing medicine where I have treated them for free. Doctors all over this country are doing so. And some of the societies look at a government takeover of health care, maybe they will be paid for these patients that they are treating for free, and so maybe it is a better deal for them. But they are sadly mistaken.

Mr. Speaker, the simple truth is we are at a pivotal point in our history. We are going to go down a direction that is going to lead us towards total

government control of our lives. And that is exactly what this so-called health care bill that we are going to be voting on, the Senate bill, with all of its special sweetheart deals, the taxpayer-funded abortion, the Cornhusker kickback, the Florida gator aid, the Louisiana purchase, all those special sweetheart deals, we are going to vote on that by voting for a rule. And it is going to deem that bill to be passed.

Deem and Pass is what they say. That sounds like an old western, doesn't it. Deem and Pass. The only people who are going to be ambushed are the American people. Because the only people who are really going to be benefiting from that bill are the government bureaucrats and the politicians here in Washington that are supporting this bill.

We are at a pivotal point. The American people have to decide. Are we going to decide between freedom on one hand or socialism on the other? Are we going to look at entrepreneurial market solutions to lower the cost of health care, to cover people who are uninsurable? And we have those answers. The Republican Party is the Party of K-n-o-w. The American people can stop this by saying "no" and contacting their Democratic Congressman and tell them to vote "no" and we can stop this leap towards socialism and vote for freedom.

MARCH MADNESS—DC STYLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. LATOURETTE. I want to thank the minority leader for giving us the leadership hour on our side this evening. I will be joined by a number of Members. Already joining me on the floor, Mr. MCCOTTER from Michigan and Mr. TIBERI from the great State of Ohio.

Before we begin with our subject matter, when this group gathered a little while ago we, in an attempt to bring some levity, which there is not very much of here to the situation, we used probably in my mind one of the greatest games ever invented, the game of Operation. You go home and they say, Wow, boy, that was a good one. I was particularly proud of the "You got to be kidney" in talking about some of the provisions in the health care bill under consideration at the time.

But I got a letter after we did that special order from the lawyers at Hasbro, saying basically I was violating their copyright, and so on forth and so on. Apparently some of those lawyers were absent the day they taught constitutional law, because not only the speech and debate clause in the Constitution, but also the fair use doctrine sort of made that not accurate.

Having said that, I don't want to further inflame the lawyers at this New